

I support media diversity

Regarding Docket No. 02-277, The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcastmedia ownership rules, I oppose any further erosion of restrictions that prevent corporations from owning too many media outlets. I think that weakening the rules will have a devastating effect on free expression in the United States.

The Clear Channel conglomerate has already demonstrated its inability to keep political bias out of its programming. The effect of a bigger Clear Channel, as well as other oversized media owners that employ such politicizing, will likely devastate the creative arts. It's bad enough that Clear Channel executives have banned John Lennon's song "Imagine," or Cat Stevens' "Peace Train," but the Dixie Chicks? Clear Channel execs not only have the IQs of a half-eaten candy bar, but their sanity is debatable as well.

Imagine, as Lennon might say, a nation with no Clear Channel. Imagine a nation having an intelligent media championing open and free political debate. Imagine a public backlash in which people turn off their radios and TVs because they are sick of the manipulating conducted by a few big media corporations.

FCC Chairman Michael Powell (son of Colin Powell) will always be remembered for whatever adverse effects the FCC rule change produces. Were it me, I would not want a bad decision on the FCC issue dogging my career for the rest of my life, nor affecting how people might regard my father.

Sincerely,

C. R. Hempleman